

Jonah 08 – The Believer’s Contradiction of Faith

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Jonah 4

Object of Jonah is Jonah

- Assyrian repentance not the major purpose of Jonah
 - Those who view this simply as a foreigner missionary message read their message into this book
 - Assyrian repentance contrasts with the unrepentance of Israel
 - Assyrian repentance contrasts with the hardness of heart displayed by Jonah and presages Jews of Christ’s time

Hebraic Word Play

- **לִיָּדָה** - Ties back to the beginning of Jonah (Context)
 - Means *ancient or famous* in reference to Nineveh (Jonah 1:2)
 - Means *out of control* in reference to Jonah’s anger
 - Shows sharp contrast between God’s response and Jonah’s response to Nineveh’s repentance
- Nineveh’s repentance tested Jonah revealing his hard heart (and of his fellow Jews)

Jonah Himself Refers to Beginning

- Jonah sought to *justify* his rebellion of chapter one by disparaging God's goodness toward Gentiles
 - Jonah knew God would spare Nineveh because of His grace (Jonah's rebellion essential to their repentance)
 - This is one of the first written prophetic books and demonstrated prideful heart of God's people
 - Only they were to be saved, all others subservient

Sparing Nineveh Challenges Jonah

- That God's word moved Gentiles to repentance meant His word was not just for Israel
 - Jonah wanted Nineveh to spend eternity in torment
 - Demonstrated his ignorance of God
 - God's plan cannot be thwarted by man or Lucifer
- Jonah greatly angered with God's grace to Nineveh

Jonah Refuses to Repent

- Jonah sinned when confronted with the grace and will of God toward Nineveh (Jn 1:1)
 - He demonstrated the error of Cain who succumbed to anger and killed Abel (Ge 4:3-8)
 - Jonah wished the destruction of the tens of thousands of Ninevites rather than confess his sin to God
 - Jonah could have repented; instead, he wanted to die

Anger Makes Jonah Stupid

- Jonah had experienced death in Chapter Two
 - His anger has so driven him out of control that he demanded to die; not once, but twice
- God confronts him like Cain: "Is your anger justified?"
 - Rather than answer God, Jonah goes to the mountains east of Nineveh to see if God will answer his prayers for Nineveh's destruction - Pouting is not repenting

Jonah Built a Tabernacle

- Jonah did what Israel (United Kingdom) and the later divided kingdoms refused to do: Live in Tents (Nu. 8:14-17)
 - While not intentional on his part, this dwelling references the beginnings of God's people - Mercy
 - Jews were to be God's message of grace to the nations: God providing Himself as sacrifice for their sinfulness
 - Instead, Jews demonstrated an anti-God message (Jonah)

Jonah's Suffering

- Jonah's adventure inside the fish probably gave him 1st and 2nd degree chemical burns (Painful)
 - His appearance probably accented his message promoting the repentance of the Ninevites
 - His tent (probably of branches) afforded little protection from the sun irritating his already painful burns
 - Ongoing pain would intensify his anger toward God

God's Grace Challenges Jonah

- God grows a plant to protect Jonah and then kills the plant revealing Jonah's hardness of heart toward life
 - The plant was an object lesson to show Jonah his sin
 - It provided shade, protecting Jonah; yet, when it died Jonah despaired again as God blew a heated wind exacerbating his discomfort: he wished to die
 - No indication his heart changed

God Challenges Jonah's Anger

- Again, God questions Jonah if his anger is justified?
 - Jonah insists his anger is justified, as did Cain (and we)
 - Demonstrates that Jonah judged all things in relation to his own worldview rather according to God's plan
- God rebukes Jonah mourning over the plant because it served his needs, not for plant's sake [Covetousness]

Lesson of the Book

- God's message is heard by all peoples and He desires they should hear His message and repent (Jt 2:14)
- Jonah had more compassion over one plant that served his need then for all the life in Nineveh
- This callousness is indicative of sin, not God's grace
- God was warning Jonah, and Judah, of their developing sinfulness that could separate them from God's love (Ro 8:35-39)

Dichotomy of Jonah {Jews}

- As a nation they frequently rejected truth of God to serve idols who were no gods
- They viewed themselves as *special* people deserving of ruling over all because of their relationship to God
- This hardened them to God's grace

Judah's Exile Changed Nothing

- Judah's exile was to return them to their *first love*, living for God, demonstrating His message of grace to all
 - However, they quickly returned to their hardness of heart based on a perceived *special* status
 - This became enshrined in their traditions (Talmud, Midrash & Mishna) and condemned by Christ
 - They became the *enemies* of God

Christ's Sermon About Anger

- Christ early in His ministry spoke about how the Jews misunderstood the Law and its application 06:521-260
 - Do not kill {Outward} was to teach them inward source of murder {Anger} {Thus, as God warned Cain...} (Gn.20:13)
 - Unrighteous anger demonstrates a sinful heart
 - An angry heart is a soul in danger of hell fire

Christ Challenged Their Belief

- Christ frequently challenged the hardness of heart of the leaders confronting them with their sinfulness
 - Christ healed man with withered hand (Mk 3:1-6)
 - Christ healed man at Bethsaida Pool (Jn 5:1-16)
 - Christ directly told them they were following Lucifer (Mt 8:33-47)
- Christ warned the people to not follow their examples (Mt 23:3-36)

They Did Not Hear Jonah's Message

- Jews boasted in the Law but continually broke the Law demonstrating they did not: (Mt 2:17-20)
 - Understand its purpose - Gospel message of life for sin
 - Nor their purpose in serving Law's grace to all mankind
- Thus, they caused Gentiles to blaspheme the Law by their hypocrisy - They embodied Jonah's worldview

Their Hardness - Our Salvation

- The Jew's hardness resulted in Gentile salvation to drive chosen Jews to zealously seek God's grace (Zc 12:10; Ro 11:11-21)
 - Jonah saved but his attitude indicative of prideful Jews
 - Their rebellion against God brought salvation to Gentiles they despised
 - This will eventually cause them to seek God (His grace toward His people)

God Warns Gentiles

- God, via Paul, warns us to avoid the same sin
 - If God was willing to punish His people will He not also punish us if we develop the same mindset
 - We are to have the mind of Christ Who became a slave unto death for us who were undeserving of God (Ph 2:3-8)
 - Anger is our warning that we are **not** doing the righteousness of God but sin for self (Ro 5:19-21; Ja 1:19-20)

Church History of Pride

- Much of Christendom (Church History) displayed the self-serving hardheartedness of Jonah
 - Promotion of denominations rather than personal grace
 - Lack of mercy by elevation of self in an empty attempt to justify self by the condemnation of others (Ro 2:1-8)
 - All will stand before God to give an account of sin and refused grace

Everyone is a Living Witness

- Bible is clear: no one deserves salvation - Gift of God
 - No one sought after God (Ro 3:10-18)
 - All have sinned (Ro 3:23)
 - No one justified by self-righteousness (Ro 3:19-20)
 - Christ alone is basis for salvation (Ro 5:12-15; 6:23)
 - All who call on Christ will be saved (Ro 10:10-13)
 - How can anyone be saved unless someone is sent? (Ro 10:14-17)

Lost are witnesses of Lucifer
 Christians are witnesses of Christ **vs** Lucifer